

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 629

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E.O. 11542: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EMIN, DA, GL

SUBJ: OIL AND GAS CONCESSIONS - GREENLAND

REF: COPENHAGEN A-179, NOV 4, 1974, AND PREVIOUS

1. AS REPORTED BY REFAIR, THE GREENLAND MINISTRY IS EXPECTED TO AWARD CONCESSIONS FOR OFF-SHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION IN GREENLAND THIS SPRING. DESPITE TOUGH TERMS, 22 DANISH AND INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES HAVE APPLIED FOR CONCESSIONS.

2. SPEAKING BEFORE THE COPENHAGEN AMERICAN CLUB ON MARCH 19, PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY OF THE GREENLAND MINISTRY, ERIK HESSELBJERG, SAID THAT
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THE MINISTRY IS PREPARED TO ANNOUNCE THE AWARD-

ING OF CONCESSIONS IN EARLY APRIL. THE DATE HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED, BUT HE SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE AROUND APRIL 9.

3. YOUNG, RADICAL GREENLANDERS HAVE RECENTLY PROTESTED AGAINST WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS "DANISH SOVEREIGNTY OVER GREENLAND AFFAIRS," AND "DANISH COLONIALISM AND EXPLOITATION OF THE GREENLAND PEOPLE." ON THE DATE OF MR. HESSELBJERG'S SPEECH TO THE AMERICAN CLUB, WHICH COINCIDED WITH A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON THE GREENLAND CONCESSION ISSUE, A GROUP OF YOUNG, MILITANT GREENLANDERS, AUGMENTED BY A SMALL NUMBER OF DANES, PICKETED THE GREENLAND MINISTRY, KEEPING HESSELBJERG "HOSTAGE" UNTIL THE GREENLAND MINISTER APPEARED TO TALK WITH THEM AND LISTEN TO THEIR COMPLAINTS. IN CONSEQUENCE, HESSELBJERG ALMOST MISSED HIS SPEECH. AS HE TOLD HIS AMERICAN CLUB AUDIENCE, THE DEMONSTRATORS WISHED TO HAVE THE AWARDED OF CONCESSIONS DELAYED UNTIL A NEW GREENLAND COUNCIL, TO BE ELECTED ON APRIL 10, HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW THE QUESTION.

4. HESSELBJERG COMMENTED THAT DULY CONSTITUTED GREENLAND COUNCILS HAVE, OVER THE PAST 5-6 YEARS, CONSIDERED THE OFF-SHORE OIL QUESTION FOUR TIMES. HE DID NOT THINK FURTHER DELAY WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE. HE SAID THE MINISTRY WOULD PROCEED AS PLANNED IN ANNOUNCING THE LIST OF CONCESSIONARIES.

5. A GREENLAND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, LARS EMIL JOHNASSEN, HAS SAID THAT HIS GROUP, THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (SF), WILL RAISE QUESTIONS IN THE PARLIAMENT ON THE GREENLAND OIL CONCESSIONS ON APRIL 4. ACCORDING TO HESSELBJERG THIS INTERPOLATION IS NOT EXPECTED TO CHANGE THE PRESENT PICTURE, SINCE A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE PARLIAMENT AND THE PRESENT GREENLAND COUNCIL HAVE ENDORSED THE POLICY OF THE GREENLAND MINISTRY.

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